Sl. No.	State	Telephone Connections
15.	Rajasthan	66,509
16.	Tamil Nadu (including Chennai and Pondicherry (U.T)	1,62,577
17.	Uttar Pradesh	1,35,730
18.	West Bengal (including Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Calcutta)	90,151
19.	Delhi	1,28,775
	Total	15,99,830

Vacancies in the Ministry of Defence

2601. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a good number of vacancies in Group 'D' posts reserved for OBCs have been lying vacant in various offices functioning under Defence Ministry in Delhi/New Delhi and Central Vehicle Depot, Delhi Cantt and Central Ordnance Depots, Shakurbasti and Delhi Cantt;

(b) if so, the details of all such vacancies which are to be filled up through direct recruitment; and

(c) the action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) As on 1.3.1997, total number of vacancies in Group 'D' reserved for backward classes in various offices in Delhi is 30. Action for filling up these vacancies is being taken in accordance with the relevant instructions.

उत्तर प्रदेश मे रक्षा मंत्री का दौरा

2602. **श्री राजनाथ सिंह "सूर्य"**: क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) जुलाई, 1996 से 31 जनवरी, 1997 के दौरान वायु सेना और थल सेना के वायुयानों और हेलीकाप्टरों से उन्होंने उत्तर प्रदेश में किन-किन स्थानों का कितनी-कितनी बार दौरा किया;

(ख) इन दौरों के प्रयोजनों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इन दौरों पर रक्षा मंत्री के साथ सैन्य अधिकारियों के अलावा अन्य सिविलियन अधिकारी भी गये थे, यदि हां, तो उनके साथ जाने वाले ऐसे व्यक्तियों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) इन यात्राओं पर किये गये कुल व्यय का ब्यौरा क्या है?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एन०वी०एन० सोमू): (क) से (घ) रक्षा मंत्री अपने कार्यों का निर्वहन करने के लिए सेना के वायुयान का इस्तेमाल करते हैं। प्रत्येक दौरे का प्रयोजन तथा अन्य ब्यौरे प्रकट करना जनहित में नहीं होगा।

Expenditure on Integrated guided missile development programme

2603. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the integrated guided missile development programme during the last five years; the surface to surface and other missile programmes launched during those years particularly from Chandipur-on-sea;

(b) whether the Prithivi missile has been test fired successfully;

(c) if so, the other surface to surface missiles proposed to be launched during the year; and

(d) the fund earmarked in Ninth Five Year Plan for integrated guided missile development programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) The amount spent during the last five years on Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) is about Rs. 227 crore. The IGMDP comprises of development of four missile systems namely PRITHVI, AKASH, TRISHUL and NAG and also technology demonstrator system AGNI, all of which have been flight tested from Chandipur in district Balasore, Orissa.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The presently envisaged surface to surface missile programmes have been successfully completed.

(d) Rs. 504 crore have been earmarked for IGMDP during Ninth Plan period.

Air Force Super Speciality Hospital in Delhi

2604. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Air Force has opened a Super Specially Hospital in Delhi;

(b) if so, the capacity in which the wife of the present Air Chief has been associated with the Institute; and

(c) the terms and conditions of her appointment, period of her appointment and under which provisions such a decision has been taken to employ her?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Wife of the present Air Chief is not associated with the hospital except in her capacity as president, Air Force Wives Welfare Association (AFWWA). She is not holding any office or appointment in the Super Speciality Hospital.

Vehicles' sale to Members of Parliament from Central Vehicle Depots

2605. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a scheme for Members of Parliament to purchase vehicles from Central Vehicle Depots;

(b) if so, the number of vehicles, category-wise, model-wise, cost-wise sold to M.Ps during the last three years;

(c) whether there has been a decrease in the number of vehicles being sold due to their poor conditions and high price; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce the price of these disposable vehicles and the pending inventory of these vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement in attached. (*See* below)

(c) No, Sir. Sale of vehicles, which registered a good increase in 1995, slightly fell during 1996, which is not due to either the poor condition or high price.

(d) Prices of the vehicls are generally fixed yearly, based on the average auction sale results of the previous year. Vehicles rejected/not collected by allottees are auctioned on regular basis, hence the question of a pending inventory does not arise.